

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A stratospheric flying object for use in a stratosphere, comprising:

a flying object body;

a platform unit mounted on said flying object body;

5 and

control means for detecting an azimuthal angle of said platform unit in a horizontal plane and actuating said platform unit to face in a constant direction at all times within said horizontal plane.

2. The stratospheric flying object according to claim 1, for being placed at a constant location and turned about the constant location when in operation.

3. The stratospheric flying object according to claim 1, further comprising a mount suspended from said flying object body, said platform unit being supported on said mount and rotatable with respect to said mount.

4. The stratospheric flying object according to claim 3, wherein said mount and said platform unit can be stored in said flying object body.

5. The stratospheric flying object according to claim

1, wherein said control means detects a tilt of said platform unit with respect to said horizontal plane and actuates said platform unit to compensate for the detected  
5 tilt.

6. The stratospheric flying object according to claim 5, wherein said control means comprises:

a rotational angle detector for detecting said azimuthal angle and said tilt of said platform unit;

5 an angular displacement calculator for calculating angular displacements of said platform unit about respective axes thereof based on a detection result by said rotational angle detector; and

an actuator for rotating said platform unit to change  
10 an attitude thereof based on the calculated angular displacements.

7. The stratospheric flying object according to claim 1, further comprising a communication device mounted on said platform unit for communications with another stratospheric flying object.

8. The stratospheric flying object according to claim 1, further comprising at least one of a first communication device mounted on said platform unit for communications with a station on the earth's surface and a second

5 communication device mounted on said platform unit for communications with an artificial satellite.